

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Departmental News



On March 6th, Scott Williams assisted DEP furbearer biologist Paul Rego on a bear den site inspection in Barkhamsted.



On March 28th a surprise retirement party was held in the Entomology Department break room for Ralph Russell. Well wishers from all the departments at the Station came by to wish him a happy and healthy retirement. He joined the Station in the building maintenance department 24 years ago.



Left to Right: Eric Richard, Robert Kuhsel, Walter Krol, Bill Battaglia

On March 14, 2008 Dr. Walter Krol met with Bob Kuhsel, Eric Richard, and Bill Battaglia, teachers from Amityville High School to discuss integrating a biodiesel program into the shop curriculum.

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI greeted 56 members of the Federated Garden Club in Jones Auditorium and gave a report on research programs at the Station (56 attendees) (March 25); was interviewed about community gardens by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (March 25); and greeted 16 students and 4 teachers from Greenwich High School and gave an overview on Station research (16 students, 4 teachers) (March 27).

Grants and Fundraising Office

MS. TESS FOLEY represented the Station at the Fairfield County Public Relations Association meeting: Corporate Responsibility Goes Green: Aspirations vs. Reality (March 21) and participated in talks with executives from the Propane Education Research Council to secure funding for Dr. Jeff Ward (March 2008).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. WALTER KROL met with Ron Olsen from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to discuss the biodiesel work done at CAES and supplied him with technical information on the work (March 5) and met with Bob Kuhsel, Eric Richard, and Bill Battaglia, teachers from Amityville High School to discuss integrating a biodiesel program into the shop curriculum (March 14).

Entomology

MS. ROSE BONITO setup and staffed a station booth at the annual Fairfield Garden Expo (approximately 3,000 adults and children visited our exhibit) (March 15 & 16).

MS. ROSE HISKES participated in a conference call of Eastern Region Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Coordinators (March 12), with Forest Service employees, staffed a Firewood Movement Education booth at the Northeast Campground Owners Association Show in Springfield, Massachusetts (March 14), gave a talk on insects to the kindergarten class of Calvin Hall School in New Haven (March 26); and staffed a station booth at the Master Gardener's Symposium in Manchester (March 29).

IRA KETTLE presented a honey bee show and lecture with questions and answers following for the Orange Garden Club (75 attendees) (March 11); setup and staffed a station booth at the annual Fairfield Garden Expo (approximately 3,000 adults and children visited our exhibit) (March 15 & 16); and presented a honey bee show and lecture with questions and answers following for the Park City Magnet School, Bridgeport (10 people) (March 25).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a meeting of the Early Detection/Rapid Response working group, a cooperative effort of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) and the US Forest Service Northeast Area Office, held at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (35 participants) (March 11).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Frank Juliano, Connecticut Post, about bees and colony collapse disorder (March 6); interviewed by Ali Fenwick, Stamford Advocate, about tick infection rates and the municipal deer alliance tick study (March 6); participated in the meeting of Northeastern Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) in Baltimore, MD (March 24-25); and welcomed high school students from the Education Connection, Litchfield, to the Station in Jones Auditorium (66 attendees) (March 31).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER Presented the talk "Managing Good Bugs and Bad Bugs in the Vegetable Garden" to community gardeners from the New Haven Land Trust at the New Haven Public Library (10 attendees) (March 1); presented the talk "Managing Good Bugs and Bad Bugs in the Vegetable Garden" to a community garden group in Torrington, Natural Resources Conservation Service Office (30 attendees) (March 4); visited David Zemelsky of Starlight Gardens in Durham to see if insects were responsible for poor spinach crop in his high tunnel (March 6); gave two talks at the CT NOFA Cultivating an Organic Connecticut Conference, "Threats to Honey Bee Health," and "The Bugs They Are A-Changing." Windsor High School (10 and 30 attendees) (March 8); presented a poster with DR. BRIAN EITZER of the Analytical Chemistry Department on "Honey Bee Exposure to Pesticides" at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, University of Connecticut, Storrs (March 10); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (8 attendees) (March 11); and along with Ira Kettle, Apiary Inspector, made a presentation to a class at the Park City Magnet School in Bridgeport on the biology of honey bees and current theories of Colony Collapse Disorder, we

also reviewed a PowerPoint presentation the students were preparing for a competition at a national environmental symposium (9 attendees) (March 25).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD along with MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY, attended CT-DEP workshop on forest practice ethics in Middlefield (March 4); participated in a CTPA-Education committee meeting in New Haven (March 6); along with MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY visited Centennial Forest Lands with Gary Haines (Aquarion Water Company), Steve Patton, and Lia Mastropolo (The Nature Conservancy) to discuss barberry control measures (March 7); participated in a Connecticut Forestlands Council - Executive Board meeting in Middlefield (March 11); interviewed about forestry research by Melissa Nicefaro of New Haven Magazine (March 11); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (March 12); spoke on "Strategies for reducing deer browse damage" at the Mansfield Garden Gate Club (35 attendees) (March 17); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (March 19); met with Jack Hale (Knox Park Foundation), Mark Goetz (City of Hartford), and Chris Donnelly (CT-DEP) to discuss urban trees in Hartford (March 20); attended CTPA workshop "Storms and Storm Damage " in Farmington (March 26); and spoke on forestry and horticultural research for a tour of the Litchfield Education Connection students (48 students) (March 31).

DR. MARTIN GENT visited with Chas Mavreliou of Sound School and electricians of the New Haven Parks Department at Pardee Greenhouses, New Haven, to discuss automation of hydroponic systems (March 12) and attended the New England Vegetable and Fruit Cooperative Extension In-service meeting, Newcastle New Hampshire, and presented talks on "Effect of shade on Greenhouse Tomato" and "Effect of environment on composition of hydroponic lettuce" (15 extension agents) (March 20-21).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD participated in a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in Hartford (March 25); participated in a meeting of the subcommittee on Composting and Organics Recycling at DEP in Hartford (March 25); and spoke about the New Crops Program to a group from Greenwich High School (15 students, 3 adults) (March 27).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (March 3) and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Department of Agriculture (March 13).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY hosted a meeting of the Executive Committee, Connecticut Chapter Society of American Foresters at the Station (March 26).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT participated in a CNLA Education Committee meeting in Cromwell (March 6).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS assisted DEP furbearer biologists on a bear den site inspection in Barkhamsted (March 6); attended the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (March 10); attended the DEP fire shelter training course in Marlborough (March 19); gave a talk to students and faculty of Greenwich high school about deer research at the Station (25 students) (March 27); and led Pine Brook School middle school students on an interpretive hike and discussed Station research at South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority's Lake Gaillard property, North Branford (20 students) (March 31).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about chestnuts to visiting groups of students participating in the Education Connection, a Regional Educational Service Center based in Litchfield (2 adults and 14 youths attended) (March 31).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH gave a talk entitled “Biological control of plant pathogens” at the CT NOFA meeting on “Cultivating an Organic Connecticut” at Windsor High School in Windsor (8 adults attended) (March 8).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave an invited lecture entitled “Highlights of the 2007 season—What to expect in 2008” at the SavATree Tree Health Care Conference in Southbury (85 adults attended) (March 5); participated in the March meeting of the CTPA Executive Board at the Station (12 adults attended) (March 11); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board with the oral exam for arborists at the Station (March 12); and participated in “Riders on the Storm,” a CTPA Workshop on preparing trees and remediation of storm damage to trees, in Farmington (87 adults attended) (March 26).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave a talk entitled “Plant pathogens associated with Sudden Vegetation Dieback along Connecticut salt marshes” as part of the Quinnipiac Sigma Xi Albert Notation Memorial Series Seminar at Quinnipiac University in Hamden (28 adults attended) (March 4); gave a talk entitled “Incidence and characterization of plant pathogens in New England salt marshes affected by Sudden Vegetation Dieback” at the 2nd Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources in Storrs (25 adults attended) (March 11); was interviewed about Fusarium wilt of basil by Ann McCormick of Organic Gardening Magazine and spoke about Sudden Vegetation Dieback at Ag Day at the Capitol in Hartford (150 youths attended (about half of whom were FFA students)) (March 19); spoke about Fusarium diseases and Sudden Vegetation Dieback to groups of students from Fairfield High School (4 adults and 23 youths attended) (March 27); and spoke about Fusarium diseases and Sudden Vegetation Dieback to visiting groups of students participating in the Education Connection, a Regional Educational Service Center based in Litchfield (2 adults and 14 youths attended) (March 31).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO spoke about powdery mildew on pumpkins and grapes to visiting groups of students participating in the Education Connection, a Regional Educational Service Center based in Litchfield (2 adults and 14 youths attended) (March 31).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave an invited talk about career options in ecology and evolution for the Wesleyan University “Biology and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Graduate Career Retreat” at the Wadsworth Mansion at Long Hill Estate in Middletown (20 graduate students and 2 faculty members attended) (March 29).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDDREADIS presented an overview of current *Research and Surveillance Initiatives on Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Diseases at CAES* at the Annual Meeting of Multi-State Research Project, NE-507, Mosquitoes, Disease and Public Health held in Atlantic City, New Jersey (March 11).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on *Lawn Care – The Rite of Spring* to a gardening seminar sponsored by The Community Evangelical Church in Glastonbury (approximately 30 attendees) (March 6); presented a poster on the CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program at Agricultural Day at the Capital Building in Hartford (March 19); spoke on *Connecticut’s Invasive Aquatic Plant Problem* at The 32nd Annual Meeting of the New England Association of Environmental Biologists” in Bartlett, New Hampshire (approximately 50 attendees) (March 27); spoke on *Soil and Invasive Aquatic Plants* to high school students visiting as part of the Education Connection Program (approximately 30 attendees) (March 31).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY presented a workshop entitled, *The Identification of Invasive Aquatic Plants of Connecticut* at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources at The University of Connecticut at Storrs (approx. 50 attendees) (March 10); attended Agriculture Day at the Capital Building in Hartford and presented a poster entitled, *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program* to legislators, legislative staffers and the public (March 19); attended the Connecticut Geospatial meeting at the Department of Information Technology in Hartford as CAES’ representative (March 26); and presented a talk entitled, *Using Geospatial Technologies to Research Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut*” at the Northeast Association of Environmental Biologists Conference (March 27).

DR. CHARLES VOSSBRINCK was a lead Judge for the eighth grade life sciences category at the Connecticut Science Fair held at Quinnipiac University. The board of directors also presented Dr. Vossbrinck with a plaque for 6 years of service at the Connecticut Science Fair (March 12-13).

DR. JASON WHITE chaired the Phytoremediation session at the 18th Annual West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water in San Diego, CA and presented a talk entitled *Phytoremediation of weathered persistent organic pollutants: mechanistic studies and field application* (March 9-11).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Management of Armored Scales in Christmas Trees," at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association, Middletown, (40 attendees) (March 1); "The Other WWW: Weevils, White Grubs, and Woolly Adelgids," for the Fairfield County Master Gardener's continuing education class, Bethel (40 attendees) (March 4), "Know Your Pests – Part I, Insect and Mite Life Cycles", "Know Your Pests – Part II, Pests Feeding on Leaves," and "Know Your Pests – Part III, Insects Feeding on Shoots and Roots" and the parallel labs for Parts II and III, for the biennial Christmas Tree Growers' Workshop, Keene, NH, (75 attendees) (March 19-20); and was interviewed by Willi Galloway, Organic Gardening Magazine, on black vine weevil biology and management (March 28).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA participated in a biofuels symposium planning meeting as a part of the UConn Biofuels Consortium at Storrs (March 5); taught a session on tree diseases as a part of Arboriculture 101 in New Haven (March 5 – 45 students); was interviewed about root-knot nematodes and wetland dieback by Joseph Ingoldsby for Leonardo Magazine (MIT Press) (March 6); conducted a day-long train-the-trainer NE-SARE Professional Development Program Workshop on 'Diagnosis, Visual Assessment and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast' in Batavia NY (2 talks, Bio 101, symptoms, management)(26 persons) (March 10); hosted a conference call of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council to select the winner of the CT Outstanding Young Farmer award (March 14); spoke about 'Plant pathogens and rose diseases' at the American Rose Society Yankee District Spring Convention held in Mystic CT (80 people) (March 15); met with P. Wayne Moore, executive Vice President of CT Biodiesel and representative of the CT Biodiesel Association to discuss biodiesel feedstock research at the Valley Laboratory (March 18); spoke about 'Signs, Symptoms and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes' to growers at the Cromwell Marriott (12 people) (March 19); conducted a day-long train-the-trainer NE-SARE Professional Development Program Workshop on 'Diagnosis, Visual Assessment and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast' in Fairlee VT (2 talks, symptoms, management) (9 persons) (March 20); spoke about research and services at the Station and summer employment opportunities at the Central Connecticut State University Biology Department Career Fair (50 persons) (March 28); and spoke about 'Biodiesel Oilseed Crops: a Value-added Approach – Integrated Pest Management' at the UConn Sustainable Energy Symposium held in Storrs (40 people) (March 31).

DR. DEWEI LI gave a presentation "Christmas Trees, Fungi/Molds, and Human Health" to the CT Christmas Tree Grower Association annual meeting in Middletown on (40 attendees) (March 1).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a meeting of the mile-a-minute vine task force in New Milford (8 attendees) (March 5); met with production managers regarding weed control issues at Sunny Border Nursery in Berlin (March 12); participated in a symposium planning committee meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at UConn-Storrs (9 attendees) (March 24); and spoke with members of the Avalonia Land Trust about control of invasive plants at Moore Woodlands in Mystic (6 attendees) (March 24).

Journal Articles Approved March 2008

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. and D. Fulbright. Comparison of nutrients in chestnuts with different pollen parents. Poster presentation, 4th International Chestnut Symposium, ISHS, Beijing, 15-18 September 2008

- M. V. Coggeshall, M. R. Warmung, and Sandra L. Anagnostakis. Graft union success of different *Castanea* scion/rootstock hybrid combinations with various cytoplasmic origins. Abstract, 4th International Chestnut Congress, ISHS, Beijing, China, 13-18 September 2008
- Armstrong, Philip M., Theodore G. Andreadis, John F. Anderson, J. W. Stull, and Christopher N. Mores. Tracking Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus perpetuation in northeastern U. S. by phylogenetic analysis. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- Elmer, Wade H. and Robert E. Marra. Taxonomy and phylogeny of pathogenic and nonpathogenic *Fusarium* species to *Spartina alterniflora*. Abstract, NE Estuarine Research Society, Spring Meeting, 1-3 May 2008, Portsmouth, NH
- Elmer, Wade H., M. M. Jimenez-Gasco, and M. Daughtrey. The pathogenicity and phylogeny of *Fusarium oxysporum* isolates on *Coreopsis verticillata* "Moonbeam". Abstract, APS Centennial Meeting, 26-30 July 2008, Minneapolis, MN
- LaMondia, James A. Efficacy of fungicides and a systemic-acquired resistance activator against tobacco blue mold. Crop Protection
- LaMondia, James A. and John Halbrendt. The effects of Brassica seed meal amendments on *Meloidogyne hapla* viability in laboratory bioassays. Proceedings of the Third International Biofumigation Symposium.
- J. M. Halbrendt, I. A. Zasada, and James A. LaMondia. Evaluation of Canadian forage pearl millet as a rotation or green manure crop to control lesion and dagger nematodes. Pennsylvania Fruit News
- Halbrendt, J. M., James A. LaMondia, and I. A. Zasada. Evaluation of millet and rapeseed as rotation or green manure crops to control nematodes in orchard replant sites. Proceedings of the Fifth International Congress of Nematology
- B.K. Gugino, G. S. Abawi, James A. LaMondia, and D. A. Neher. Train-the-trainer workshops as a platform for disseminating applied nematological research to vegetable and small fruit stakeholders in the NE. Phytopathology (abstract)
- Maier, Chris T. Distributional and Host Records of Cerambycidae (Coleoptera) Associated with Cupressaceae in New England, New York, and New Jersey
- Nail, William R. Winegrape Cultivar Trials in Connecticut 2004-2006. Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, religious creed, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, criminal conviction record, genetic information, learning disability, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation or physical disability including but not limited to blindness, or marital or family status. To file a complaint of discrimination, Abstract write Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504, or call (203) 974-8440. CAES is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services at (203) 974-8442 (voice); (203) 974-8502 (FAX); or Michael.Last@po.state.ct.us (E-mail).
